

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00230 301443Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 /089 W

----- 016535

R 301328Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 785

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 230

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: HOLIDAY PERIOD DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

REF: BELFAST 227, 226

1. A STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO PROVISIONAL IRA SOURCES DENIED RESPONSIBILITY FOR TWO ATTACKS BY GUNMEN ON ARMY PATROLS IN TOWN NEWRY NIGHTS DEC. 28 AND 29. IRA STATED IT INVESTIGATING ATTACKS FOR WHICH IT TENTATIVELY BLAMED "HOOLIGANS".

2. IN SECURITY RELATED DEVELOPMENTS: (A) SECSTATE REES AND HMG BEING CRITICIZED BY LOYALIST POLITICAL LEADERS FOR APPLYING DOUBLE STANDARDS FOR ULSTER IN RELEASE TWO MEN WHO HAD BEEN DEPORTED FROM BRITISH MAINLAND TO NORTHERN IRELAND. NOEL MC COMB AND JAMES FLYNN SUBJECT EXCLUSION ORDERS UK HELD FOR QUESTIONING ON ARRIVAL NORTHERN IRELAND BUT SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED. (B) SECSTATE REES PAROLED 163 CONVICTED PRISONERS FOR PERIOD DEC. 24-DEC. 30. SEVENTY NINE OF THESE SPECIAL CATEGORY (POLITICAL). TWENTY SPECIAL CATEGORY AND 51 OTHER PRISONERS GIVEN CHRISTMAS EVEN REMISSION OF SENTENCES NEARING COMPLETION. THIRTY SEVEN DETAINEES OFFERED THREE DAYS PAROLE OVER CHRISTMAS BUT 19 OF THESE WHO PROVISIONAL IRA DETAINEES REFUSED PAROLE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BELFAS 00230 301443Z

THREE DETAINEES INCLUDING HUSBAND AND WIFE WITH SEVERAL CHILDREN

RELEASED ON COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS. PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN VICE PRESIDENT MAIRE DRUMM ASSERTED PAROLES AND REMISSIONS NOT RPT NOT ADEUATE AS "SIGNIFICANT GESTURE" TO MEET PROVISIONAL IRA REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTENDING CEASEFIRE. (C) ARMY MAINTAINING REDUCED PRESENCE REPUBLICAN AREAS.

3. CONSENSUS MOST OBSERVERS IS THAT UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE NUMBER DETAINEES WOULD BE THE SIGNAL TO IRA THAT GOVERNMENT RECEPTIVE TO FURTHER PEACE INITIATIVES. POPULAR SCENARIO HAS RELEASED DETAINEES FOLLOWED BY PROLONGED CEASEFIRE FOLLOWED BY WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS TO BARRACKS FOLLOWED BY AMNESTY SOME CONVICTED PRISONERS THEN FACE-TO-FACE DISCUSSIONS WITH IRA. EVEN FIRST STEP WOULD BE OPPOSED BY LOYALISTS, MOST IMPORTANTLY BY PARA-MILITARY GROUPS. IT ALSO UNLIKELY ARMY WOULD FAVOR RELEASE NUMBER DETAINEES. LAST STEP IS ANATHEMA TO ALL ESTABLISHED NORTHERN IRELAND POLITICAL GROUPS. REMOTELY POSSIBLE AS SUBSTITUTE FOR LAST STEP COULD BE PROVO DECISION TO CONTEST CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ELECTION UNDER SINN FEIN OR NEW BANNER. FEW OBSERVERS BELIEVE HOWEVER THAT PROVOS YET DEBILITATED TO THAT EXTENT.
SPICER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, NORTHERN ISLAND, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BELFAS00230
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740377-0258
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974125/aaaaaeea.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 BELFAST 227, 74 226
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 OCT 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <27 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HOLIDAY PERIOD DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND
TAGS: PINT, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005